basmati rice has been found to be adulterated as per the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act. The quesiton of withdrawing any stock therefore does not arise. Basmati rice sold by Kendriya Bhandar meets the specifications prescribed in the PFA Act and the same is released for sale only after testing to meet the above specifications.

(b) and (c) Tests are carried out on all goods including rice. The goods not meeting the prescribed specifications are withdrawn and the suppliers cautioned and, in extreme cases the supplies from them are discontinued for specified period. A total of 2319 tests of various commodities were carried out during the year 1996-97, out of which 162 samples failed.

Import of LNG for Power Sector

4350. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC, IOC and GAIL are planning to set up any project to import LNG for the power sector;

(b) whether they are also planning to set up more terminals in order to channelise LNG for the power sector in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of power projects proposed to be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ennore, Mangalore, Cochin etc. have been identified as possible locations for LNG terminals.

(d) NTPCs projects near Chennai and at Kayankulam may utilise gas imported as LNG.

Allotment of Pertol Pumps and Gas Agencies to Ineligible Persons

4351. SMT. BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM
CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies to ineligible persons have been detected during the last three years;

(b) who verifies the eligibility, the OSBs, or the Oil companies;

(c) whether it is a fact that several persons apply for petrol pumps and gas agencies inspite of being not eligible; and

(d) what steps are taken to see that persons not eligible do not get the petrol pump and agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Twelve (12) cases of ineligible persons getting selected on the basis of furnishing wrong information during the last three years have been reported by the oil companies.

(b) Eligibility of a candidate is verified initially by the concerned oil company. It is further checked by the concerned Board before calling the eligible candidates for interviews.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Applicants are required to submit documentary evidence/affidavits in support of their fulfilling the eligibility conditions stipulated in the advertisement and the application from or at the time of interviews as per the directions of the Board. The documents submitted by the applicants are verified by the concerned oil company as also the selection Board to eliminate ineligible applicants to be considered for selection. In spite of adequate safeguard provided in the guidelines, the possibility of some ineligible candidates getting selected